

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Morishita and Ogihara

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Application No. To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: GENE THERAPY FOR DIABETIC ISCHEMIC DISEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Date: June 28, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

**In the specification:**

On page 1, line 4, please insert the following paragraph:

--Priority Claim

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 371 to PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/07502, filed October 26, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 11/309984, filed October 29, 1999, each of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.--

**In the claims:**

1. (Amended) A therapeutic agent for treating a diabetic ischemic disease, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding hepatocyte growth factor (HGF).